

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated June 29, 2006. Claims 1 - 3 and 17 are pending in this application and have been rejected. Claims 4 - 16 have been withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

These remarks follow the order of the detailed Office Action beginning at page 2 thereof.

The Examiner has characterized the claims 13 and 24 - 53 are withdrawn from consideration. This is believed to be incorrect. The withdrawn claims are 4 - 16 as stated on the Office Action Summary sheet (PTOL-326).

Claims 1 - 3 and 17 are under examination.

Priority/Response to Amendment

Applicant appreciates the acknowledgement of priority and the withdrawal of the Longley reference as discussed by the Examiner at pages 2 and 3.

Amendments in the Claims

The limitations of claim 2 are now incorporated into claim 1 and claim 2 is canceled by this amendment.

In studying the claims under examination, it was discovered that in the previously submitted amendment the term "SCF-expressing cells" was deleted in claim 1 line 6 and the term epidermal keratinocytes was inserted. However, in claim 1, lines 2 up from the bottom as well as claim 3, line 2, it was observed the term "SCF-expressing cells" remained in the claims. This clearly presented an antecedent basis problem. In order to correct the antecedent basis for epidermal keratinocytes this term has now been substituted for "SCF-expressing cells".

Claim 1 as Amended

The references Hachiya, Kawaguchi and Botchkareva only suggest stimulation of cells and consequent SCF promotion of SCF production in response to ultra violet (UV) stimulation. In original claim 2, Applicant claimed drying stimulation, UV stimulation, and chemical stimulation.

Claim 1 has now been amended to consist of only drying stimulation and chemical stimulation which are terms found in original claim 2. UV from original claim 2 is deleted. The claim states "stimulation is drying stimulation or chemical stimulation.

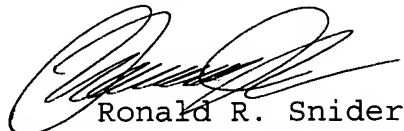
Claim 1 as now amended clearly defines over the art of record.

In Applicant's specification at page 4, Applicant has at line 8 made it clear that the most preferable stimulation for

this invention is a drying stimulation.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action in accordance thereof is requested. In the event there is any reason why the application cannot be allowed in this current condition, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number listed below to resolve any problems by Interview or Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald R. Snider
Reg. No. 24,962

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Snider & Associates
Ronald R. Snider
P.O. Box 27613
Washington, D.C. 20038-7613
Tel.: (202) 347-2600

RRS/bam